

Message Text

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12

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-10 L-02

NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 SS-15 SP-02 /082 W

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R 020641Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7052

UNCLAS TOKYO 0014

DEPT PASS TO OES/ENP FOR HERTER, TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY, AND TO COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE STANDARDS FOR NITROGEN OXIDES, 1976-1978

REF: A) TOKYO 15951, B) TOKYO 13602

SUMMARY: JAPAN'S ENVIRONMENT AGENCY HAS RECEIVED OFFICIAL
RECOMMENDATION TO POSTPONE FOR TWO YEARS (UNTIL 1978) STRICT
STANDARD FOR NITROGEN OXIDE EMISSIONS FROM VEHICLES BECAUSE
MEETING STANDARD BY 1976 NOT TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE. AGENCY'S
DECISION IS EXPECTED AT END OF JANUARY. END SUMMARY.

1. ON DECEMBER 27, CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR CONTROL OF ENVIRONMENTAL
POLLUTION SUBMITTED TO TATSUO OZAWA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA, ITS REPORT RECOMMENDING POSTPONEMENT
FROM 1976 TO 1978 OF PROVISIONAL STANDARDS FOR EMISSION OF
NITROGEN OXIDES FROM MOTOR VEHICLES. AT THE SAME TIME, COUNCIL
RECOMMENDED THAT GOVERNMENT TAKE OTHER, COMPREHENSIVE MEASURES
SO THAT STRICT STANDARD ORIGINALLY PROPOSED FOR 1976 (0.25 GRAM
OF NITROGEN OXIDES PER KILOMETER RUN) DEFINITELY BE MET BY 1978.

2. COUNCIL'S ACTION REPRESENTS OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OF EARLIER
PROPOSAL OF COUNCIL'S EXPERT COMMITTEE ON AUTOMOBILE POLLUTION
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(REFTEL A) THAT 0.25 GRAM PER KILOMETER STANDARD BE POSTPONED

UNTIL 1978 AND INTERIM STANDARDS BE ADOPTED, BUT COUNCIL APPEARED TO PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS ON MEETING STRICT LEVEL BY 1978. INTERIM STANDARD IS 0.6 GRAM OF NO X PER KILOMETER FOR VEHICLES LESS THAN ONE TON (INCLUDING 110 KG AS WEIGHT OF TWO OCCUPANTS) AND 0.85 GRAMS FOR HEAVIER VEHICLES. COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATION MUST STILL BE APPROVED BY MINISTER OZAWA OF EA, BUT THIS IS EXPECTED TO BE ROUTINELY DONE AND ANNOUNCED AT END OF JANUARY 1975.

3. COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATION WAS ADOPTED ONLY AFTER SIX-HOUR MEETING IN WHICH CHAIRMAN KIYOO WADACHI WAS UNABLE TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS. REPRESENTATIVES OF SOHYO (GENERAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS OF JAPAN), SHUFUREN (HOUSEWIVES FEDERATION), AND CHURITSUOREN (FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT UNIONS) VOTED AGAINST ADOPTION OF REPORT, BUT LOST, 18-3.

4. COUNCIL'S REPORT RECOMMENDS GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENSURE ACHIEVEMENT OF 0.25 GRAM STANDARD BY 1978 AS FOLLOWS:

A) ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY TO ACHIEVE 0.25 GRAM STANDARD BY 1978, B) GIVE TAX PREFERENCES TO CARS PRODUCING LESS POLLUTION THAN PROVISIONAL STANDARDS, AND C) INCREASE RESTRICTIONS ON VOLUME OF TRAFFIC AND ON EXHAUSTS FROM DIESEL VEHICLES.

AUTO INDUSTRY'S REQCTION TO PROPOSAL FOR INCREASED RESTRICTIONS ON TRAFFIC VOLUME IS EXPECTED TO BE INTENSE.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

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